From: James Massingill
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 7:30am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs,

I am writing this short letter in order to give a small sample of what the general American Public thinks about the Microsoft anti-trust suit. First of all, I want to make it clear that I am not a big fan of Microsoft, nor do I completely agree with all its tactics. However, Microsoft as a company has a right to give it's customers innovative new software.

The fact that it's operating systems are integrated with a web browser should be a non-player in the lawsuit filed against them. Their goal to have the Operating System and the Internet as one seamless integrated technology is innovative and brilliant as are most of the "forward thinking" the company has come up with. Since their are other Internet Browsers and tools on the market which can be and are purchased separately, there is no real problem here. To build an anti-trust case on this premise is a farce.

As an Operating System, Microsoft does have it's competitors. These competitors include Macintosh, Several Brands of Linux, and Sun OS to name a few. One can not maintain that Microsoft has a monopoly, because this is simply not true. In actuality Linux has been gaining in popularity over the last several years and is a top seller in the software market. Therefore, states do not have a leg to stand on when stating Microsoft is a monopoly.

In the software arena, such as games, utilities, etc Microsoft does not even have huge chunk of sales. There are many companies and competitors out there and I seriously doubt that Microsoft really wants to edge everyone out of that business, it would be impossible. Realistically, I, as a consumer, believe that the states in this suit do not have a very good case at all. I also believe this suit should end has soon as possible. I believe the states involved should stop trying to punish a company for being innovative, and stop using hard earned tax money for causes such as this.

sincerely,

James Massingill
San Antonio, TX